



CITY OF TUCSON



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NEWS RELEASE

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HOAX 911 CALL OF MAN WITH A GUN SANTA RITA HIGH SCHOOL – 3951 SOUTH PANTANO ROAD

At approximately 8:52 a.m. on October 24, 2013, the Tucson Police Department received a 911 call in which an unknown caller advised that a male was in possession of three guns on the campus of Santa Rita High School, which is located at 3951 South Pantano Road. After advising that the male with the guns was on the school campus, the caller abruptly hung up the phone. Personnel from the Tucson Police Department immediately notified school administrative staff as well as Tucson Unified School District School Safety personnel of the call. Officers from Operations Division East arrived at the school campus approximately three minutes after the 911 call was received, and immediate efforts were coordinated with administrative and safety personnel at the school to ensure that there was no disturbance on the campus. At the same time as the school was being checked for any suspicious activity or persons, investigative efforts were underway to identify and locate the phone that was used to place the 911 call. It was determined that the call had been made from a cellular telephone that was on the school campus. Officers were able to quickly identify the specific location of the phone and obtain it for further investigation.

The officers also identified a group of students, who were believed to either have knowledge of the hoax phone call that was placed to 911 or have participated in making the hoax phone call. Those students were detained for a short period of time while the investigation continued. Ultimately, the police personnel at the school campus learned that a 14-year old Freshman student borrowed a cellular telephone, which belonged to another student, and made the hoax 911 call. Efforts were then made to delete the 911 call from the call history on the phone. Other students that had been aware of the hoax were determined to not be culpable for the actual false report that was made in relation to a man with guns on the school campus. Additionally, the owner of the phone that was used to make the call was also determined to not be at fault or responsible for the incident. The 14-year old student who made the fake 911 call was arrested for 1 count of False Reporting of an Emergency as well as Disorderly Conduct – Interfering With or Disrupting an Educational Institution, both misdemeanor offenses. He has been identified as Mario Portillo. Mr. Portillo was transported and booked into the Pima County Juvenile Detention Center.

The Tucson Police Department would like to remind our citizens that we will diligently and aggressively investigate any and all reports of suspicious activity or persons that are reported on or near school campuses. The safety of our children is top priority. Along the same lines, if during the investigation of such activity or persons, it is determined that

Page 1 of 2

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.

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information was falsely reported, we will pursue all avenues of prosecution to hold those involved accountable for their actions.

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Page 2 of 2

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